

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 have been amended in several particulars for purposes of clarity and brevity that are unrelated to patentability and prior art rejections while dependent claims 12-20 have been newly added to depend upon base claim 1, in accordance with current Office policy, to further define Applicants' disclosed invention and to assist the Examiner to expedite compact prosecution of the instant application.

The drawings have been objected to because FIG. 3 is not designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." However, this objection is incorrect. FIG. 3 is not believed to constitute "prior art" as that term is defined by either 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103. Rather, FIG. 3 is simply an abstract representation of the art prepared by Applicants in an effort to illustrate Applicants' discovery of problems plagued in the art; this discovery is itself, together with Applicants' abstraction of the art represented by FIG. 3, part of Applicants' invention. FIG. 3 is therefore, Applicants' work products and Applicants' effort to describe his invention in terms of both the problems which have plagued in the art and which Applicants have addressed with the inventions defined by the claims. In view of these explanations, Applicants again trust that the objection will be withdrawn. Nevertheless, for purposes of expedition, FIG. 3 has been labeled as "Related Art" in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

The drawings have also been objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because reference signs 1200, 1900, 2000 and 2100, as shown in FIG. 8, were not described in the specification. In response thereto, the specification has

been reviewed, and FIG. 8 has been revised to delete those reference signs, which are not material to the patentability of claims 1-11 as pending in the application, in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

The drawings have further been objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because reference signs x1, x2 and x3 as described on page 18, line 18 of Applicants' specification are not shown in the drawings. However, those reference signs refer to the example lengths of the planar plate, which are not defined in the claims and, should, therefore, not be labeled in the drawings. In any event, the specification has been reviewed and revised where necessary to overcome this objection.

The disclosure has been objected to because of informalities as listed on page 3 of the Office Action (Paper No. 05252004). In response thereto, the disclosure has been reviewed and amended herein to overcome the objection.

Claims 1-11 have been conditionally allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the objection(s) for informalities as set forth in the Office Action (Paper No. 05252004). The Examiner's indication of allowability of these claims is noted with appreciation. For purposes of expedition, claims 1-11 have been amended to overcome the outstanding objection(s) and rejection(s) in order to place in condition for allowance.

For example, claims 1 and 2 have been amended in those instances kindly noted on page 3 of the Office Action (Paper No. 05252004) to overcome the outstanding objection. Similarly, claims 1-11 have been amended in those instances kindly noted on pages 3-4 of the Office Action (Paper No. 05252004) to overcome

the outstanding rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2d ¶. As amended, claims 1-11 are now believed in condition for allowance.

In addition, for purposes of completeness, dependent claims 12-20 have been newly added to depend upon the now allowed base claim 2. These claims are believed to be allowable in the same manner as base claim 2. No fee is incurred by the addition of claims 12-20.

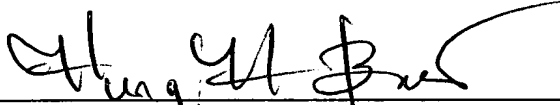
In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 500.41074X00), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By


Hung H. Bui (Reg. No. 40,415)
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HHB:btd

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel.: (703) 312-6600
Fax: (703) 312-6666

IN THE DRAWINGS

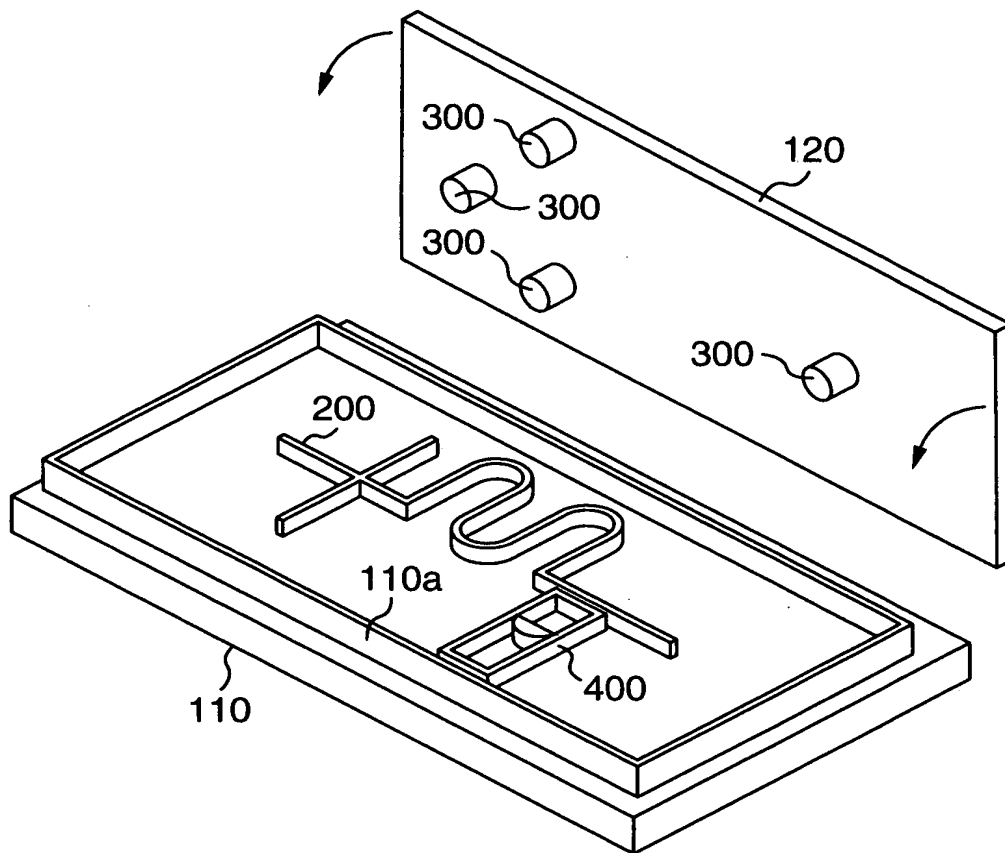
Attachments:

Replacement Sheets for FIGS. 3 and 8

Annotated Sheets showing changes made to FIGS. 3 and 8

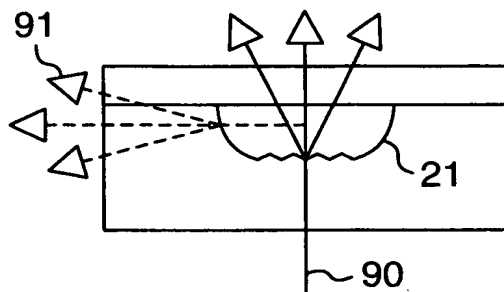


FIG. 2



RELATED ART

FIG. 3





Appl. No. 10/041,597
Amdt. dated October 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 4, 2004
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

FIG. 8

